

founded by ten distinguished, God-fearing, high achieving, young African-American gentlemen who had the vision to foster leadership through fraternal brotherhood and Christian ideals on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. These men had the determination to defy customs in pursuit of a college education and professional careers during an oppressive time in American history for African-Americans. Kappa Alpha Psi currently yields a membership of over 150,000 college trained men on more than 360 university campuses, with alumni chapters located in 347 cities, and has representation in five foreign nations.

Since its inception, the brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi have fostered relentless support to our country. Through programs such as Kappa League and National Guide Right, the fraternity has provided thousands of at-risk youth in communities throughout the Nation with role models, mentors, and scholarships for higher education, which in return encourages our youth to make positive contributions to society through leadership and service. Kappa Alpha Psi holds an annual Holiday Food Drive to provide citizens of underserved communities with food, clothing, and toys throughout the United States. The men of Kappa Alpha Psi also volunteer through hands-on partnerships with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (Memphis), and many more.

On any given day you can see the notable accomplishments from the Kappa Alpha Psi brotherhood in Congress. Each day, as members, we strive to ensure that our brotherhood continues to exemplify achievement in every field of human endeavor. Kappa Alpha Psi sponsors events such as "Kappas on Capitol Hill" to increase member awareness about the political process as well as an undergraduate leadership institute to enhance the skills and abilities for the fraternity's top student leaders.

Madam speaker, in 1954, I made one of the best decisions of my life, I joined the noble clan of Kappa Alpha Psi, crossing the sands with Laurel Wreath holder Dr. W.H. Greene. Since that wondrous time, I have enjoyed 56 years of involvement with our Bond. I am awed and indebted to all of our Brothers. For us to celebrate 100 years is a crowning achievement. I am extremely proud to be a part of such a distinguished brotherhood that continuously contributes to the improvement of society. Again, I say congratulations to my brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi for 100 steadfast years of serving local communities and elevating the lives of collegiate men throughout our great Nation.

HONORING DENNIS R. FERGUSON

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dennis R. Ferguson, and to ask my colleagues who are not supporters of unemployment benefits to listen to his story and learn about the real value of this program.

Dennis Ferguson lost his job with Douglas Aircraft in Los Angeles in 1964. He was 26

years old, living in a motel, and had reached a crossroads that would determine how the rest of his life would play out. He took advantage of California's unemployment benefits program for 4 months that year and used that money to go back to school and become a computer programmer. Mr. Ferguson thrived in his new field and eventually settled in South Carolina.

Last month, Dennis wrote a check for \$10,000 to the State of California to repay the state for the assistance it had given him 40 years earlier. Today, I applaud Dennis Ferguson for this act of generosity, but I also share his story to remind the members of this body about the real world impact unemployment benefits have.

Unemployment in California has been at more than 12 percent for the past 2 years. There are those in this body who have opposed extending unemployment at every turn. I have heard some say that unemployment benefits make people lazy. I have heard others say that if we just cut them off, people will go out and get a job. Such statements show a misunderstanding of what unemployment benefits are for and how they can help those—who through no fault of their own—lost their jobs and need a bridge to get back on their feet.

The most recent unemployment benefit extension ensured that 450,000 people in my home state would not lose their benefits at Christmastime. They now have the chance to get back on their feet just like Dennis Ferguson did. These men and women don't want a safety net, they want to work. They want to be the ones responsible for putting food on the table, and a roof over their family's heads.

Sometimes circumstances arise beyond our control and we need temporary assistance while getting back on our feet. That is what the unemployment program does. I think if you ask Dennis Ferguson's neighbors whether unemployment benefits have a positive impact on a community, they will answer with a resounding yes.

I hope my colleagues who are critics of the unemployment program will re-assess their thinking and stand up for their constituents the next time this body considers legislation impacting the unemployment benefits program.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF VERNON AND CAROL SLOAN'S FARMING IN WILLIAMS COUNTY, OHIO

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate one of Ohio's longest and continuous farming operations. The year 2010 marks the 175th anniversary of Lewis Clark homesteading and clearing the land south of present day Stryker, in Williams County, Ohio. The deed for the conveyance of one hundred sixty acres of land is dated October 7, 1835 and is granted under the signature of President Andrew Jackson. Vernon and Carol Sloan have carried on the stewardship

of the land begun by Vernon's ancestor Lewis Clark and have helped to feed not only Ohioans, but Americans and people from around the world. American farmers are some of our hardest working and best producing citizens who continue to find innovative ways to produce crops and raise livestock. Today less than two percent of Americans earn their livelihood on the land while that number is even smaller in Ohio at less than one percent. These numbers are contrasted to the forty percent of Americans who were engaged in agriculture in 1900.

Vernon and Carol Sloan have ingrained their love of the land in their children and their children's children. The Sloans look forward to passing on their farming heritage and tradition to their family's future generations to till the land and harvest the bounties of the earth.

Madam Speaker, I salute Vernon and Carol Sloan on their faithfulness to the land and their family's wonderful achievement on the 175th anniversary of farming in Williams County, Ohio.

MICHAEL ROBERT KINDIG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Michael Robert Kindig for the years of service to his brothers and sisters. Michael passed away on August 9, 2010, after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Michael Kindig's achievements are many, particularly his leadership. As a member of the board of the Denver local of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, The International Brotherhood of Teamsters, as a member of the National Board of Directors and President of the Colorado Branch of the Screen Actors Guild, Organizer for the Colorado Chapter of the National Alliance for Retired Americans and Editor of the Colorado Labor Advocate for nearly twenty years, Mike worked diligently to advance the labor community in Colorado.

Michael was an alternate delegate to the National Democratic Convention held in Chicago in 1968, and spent the rest of his life dedicated to his political beliefs. He served in the U. S. Marine Reserves for six years. Mike Kindig was a patriotic American.

Michael's father was declared missing in action in Papua New Guinea in 1944, when Michael was three years old. He met his future wife Patricia Gaffney when a search she had initiated for her father, also declared missing in action in Papua New Guinea, yielded the remains of both men. After 55 and 56 years respectively, Major Earl R. Kindig and 2LT George P. Gaffney, Jr., were buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington DC.

Michael Kindig had a very large group of friends from many walks of life which is a testament to the values he possessed. He will be remembered as a dedicated husband, father and friend committed to making his community a better place for all of us.